

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 AF-10 MMS-03 SS-20 NSC-07 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SPC-03 H-03 AGR-20 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 PRS-01 /110 W

----- 007092

R 061345Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 107

INFO USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IN, US

SUBJ: SWARAN SINGH ON AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON DIEGO
GARCIA

REF: NEW DELHI 3096

1. SOME COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA MEMBERS RAISED A FUSS
IN PARLIAMENT MARCH 6 ABOUT MY COMMENTS ON DIEGO GARCIA
IN MADRAS ON MARCH 4. ONE OF THEM REPORTEDLY SAID I
SHOULD BE DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA. THE FOREIGN
MINISTER HAD TO RESPOND:

2. SWARAN SINGH AGAIN EXPRESSED INDIA'S TOTAL OPPOSITION
TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY FOREIGN BASES IN THE INDIAN
OCEAN. HE SAID "WE DO NOT ACCEPT THIS ASSERTION THAT
THE DIEGO GARCIA BASE IS MORE IMPORTANT TO THE US
BECAUSE THE DISTANCE OF THE US FROM DIEGO GARCIA IS
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PERHAPS MORE THAN 7,000 KILOMETERS WHEREAS IT IS CLOSE

TO US, IN FACT NOT ONLY TO US, BUT THIS IS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO ALL THE LITTORAL STATES SURROUNDING THE INDIAN OCEAN."

3. SINGH POINTED OUT THE US EMBASSY HAD INFORMED THE GOI (WHICH WE DID) THAT MY COMMENTS WERE OFF THE RECORD. HE SAID "THE BASIC POINT THAT IS MENTIONED IN THE STATEMENT OF THE AMBASSADOR IN JUSTIFYING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DIEGO GARCIA BASE IS ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE TO US". BUT WE SHOULD ALSO UNDERSTAND THE US POSITION IS NOT THE SAME AS OURS, AND JUST AS OUR AMBASSADOR IN THE US WILL PRESS OUR VIEWPOINT, THE US AMBASSADOR WILL PROJECT THE VIEWPOINT OF HIS GOVERNMENT IN OUR COUNTRY. "AS A FREE, OPEN SOCIETY, WE SHOULD TAKE IT IN OUR STRIDE AND SEE AS TO WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING VALID SAID IN THAT STATEMENT." WE BELIEVE THE CASE HE HAS TRIED TO PUT TO JUSTIFY THE BASE IS UNTENABLE, AND WE SHOULD LEAVE IT AT THAT.

4. CPI MEMBERS ALSO HAD A GO AT CONGRESSMAN POAGE'S COMMENTS ON THE INDIAN SUGAR QUOTA. SINGH SAID INDIA NEVER ACCEPTED ECONOMIC HELP WITH STRINGS AND THAT IN MY COMMENTS AT MADRAS I DID NOT APPEAR TO SUPPORT WHAT WAS SAID BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE. MOYNIHAN

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